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THE PALACE, BANGALORE,
*25th February 1931.*

MY DEAR LORD IRWIN,

I am very reluctant to trouble you so near the time of your departure, when you must have every minute of your time filled with weighty matters, but I feel that, after all your goodness to Mysore in the matter of the tribute, I should be wanting in courtesy if I failed to keep you advised of what has been passing in London in that connection.

Sir Mirza Ismail, who was representing three important States at the Round Table Conference, felt very strongly that, in the case of all the three, it must be a condition precedent to their entering any Federal Consitution that they should be freed from the stigma that attaches to the payment of a tribute. He expressed this view to several of those taking part in the Conference, and found that it had a large measure of support. Among others to whom he mentioned it, were the Premier and the Secretary of State, and he sent the latter a memorandum embodying his views, a copy of which has, I understand, been sent to the Government of India. Another is enclosed herewith.

I have already expressed my own views on this aspect of the question of the tributes in letters addressed to Your Excellency's predecessors, Lord Chelmsford and Lord Reading; and Your Excellency's own very generous action in the matter of the Mysore subsidy, taken on the occasion of your visit here in 1927, gives me the assurance that, in addressing Your Excellency, I am addressing a very strong friend and firm supporter of the cause of the States.

It may be thought that this is a question that should not be raised at a time of financial depression, but I need hardly stress the fact that the depression is affecting us proportionately as much as, if not more than, the Government of India, and will do so in an enhanced degree if that Government's escape from its difficulties is to be found in an increase of the Customs duties.

At the same time, I feel extremely strongly, as I know do many others, that the removal of this anachronism ought not to be longer delayed, if federation is to be a success, and that one way to ensure such a success is to give freely as an act of grace this measure of justice long withheld.

I need hardly say that we are all perfectly willing to pay our fair share of Imperial burdens, on whatever basis it may be assessed.

What those of us who pay the tributes are anxious to secure is that we should be put in a position to discuss terms of federation with the other States and the Provinces as equal partners and not lying under the present stigma of inferiority.

I feel sure that Your Excellency's high statesmanship and human sympathy will recognize our point of view, and that you will do your utmost to have the stigma entirely removed before you lay down the reins of your high office.

I am,
Your Excellency's sincere friend,
KRISHNARAJA WADIYAR.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON'BLE
BARON IRWIN, G.C.M.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.B.E., P.C.,
*Viceroy and Governor-General of India,*
*New Delhi.*